

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Final Office Action dated March 22, 2006, and has made amendments to the claims. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-4 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the application, in view of the amendments and the following remarks, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,497,485 to Itoh (hereinafter "Itoh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,191,893 to Bradley (hereinafter "Bradley") and Arnold et al. (SID 01 DIGEST). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Itoh, Bradley and Arnold et al., either alone or in combination, do not teach the claimed invention. As amended, independent claims 1 and 3 disclose an illuminating optical system wherein first, second and third film type PBSs (Polarized Beam Splitters) are utilized for transmitting light. Support for this amendment can be found on page 13, paragraph 74 of the specification

As stated by the examiner, Arnold et al. teaches the use of wire grid PBSs for greater tolerance and reduced chromatic aberration. However, the applicant respectfully submits that Arnold et al. is a reference related to a specific type of PBS, specifically the MOXTEK ProFlux™ PBS. Upon investigation of the MOXTEK website (<http://www.moxtek.com>; www.profluxpolarizer.com), it is taught that the MOXTEK polarizers are constructed of a thin layer of aluminum on a glass substrate. Please see a printout of the webpage attached.

In contrast, the present invention of claims 1 and 3 utilize a film type PBS, not a glass substrate. By using a polarization film, deterioration of contrast and low intensity of radiation caused by a photoelasticity phenomenon is eliminated (see page 13, paragraph 74 of specification).

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 and the claims respectively dependent therefrom are allowable over Itoh, Bradley and Arnold et al. either alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the present Amendment places all claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

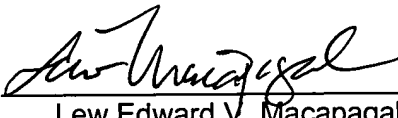
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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